

Andrea Coulter
Productivity Commission,
LB2 Collins Street East
Melbourne Vic. 8003.

Dear Andrea,

Our business specializes in the supply of housing and equipment to the pig industry, so we know first hand the negative effects that imported pig meat has had on our business and pork producers.

Australian pork producers have been at best forced to budget on losses, and at worst forced to leave the industry due to their commodity prices being limited by imported product. The maximum price for pig meat has been subdued and limited by imports, which has come about since import levels have increased.

We have been forced to dismiss 2 employees from a staff of 5 over the last 9 months. Our turnover has dropped by 45%, and future prospects are not good. We have seen steady growth in our business until 2005/06, when turnover stagnated, and since January has declined considerably. Our annual turnover now is less than our first year in business.

I have been disillusioned with the government's attitude regarding free trade. It is absolutely damaging local industry and agriculture, with flow-on effects seen throughout the community.

Future viability of the industry in doubt if imports are allowed to continue. Regardless of drought, imports were having a detrimental effect on our industry, limiting investment and growth.

Current drought conditions have increased cost of production, and imports have over-ridden natural market forces, causing significant damage to all parts of our industry.

Safeguard action is definitely justified on this basis, to give producers time to recuperate losses and adjust to trading conditions.

Yours faithfully,

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